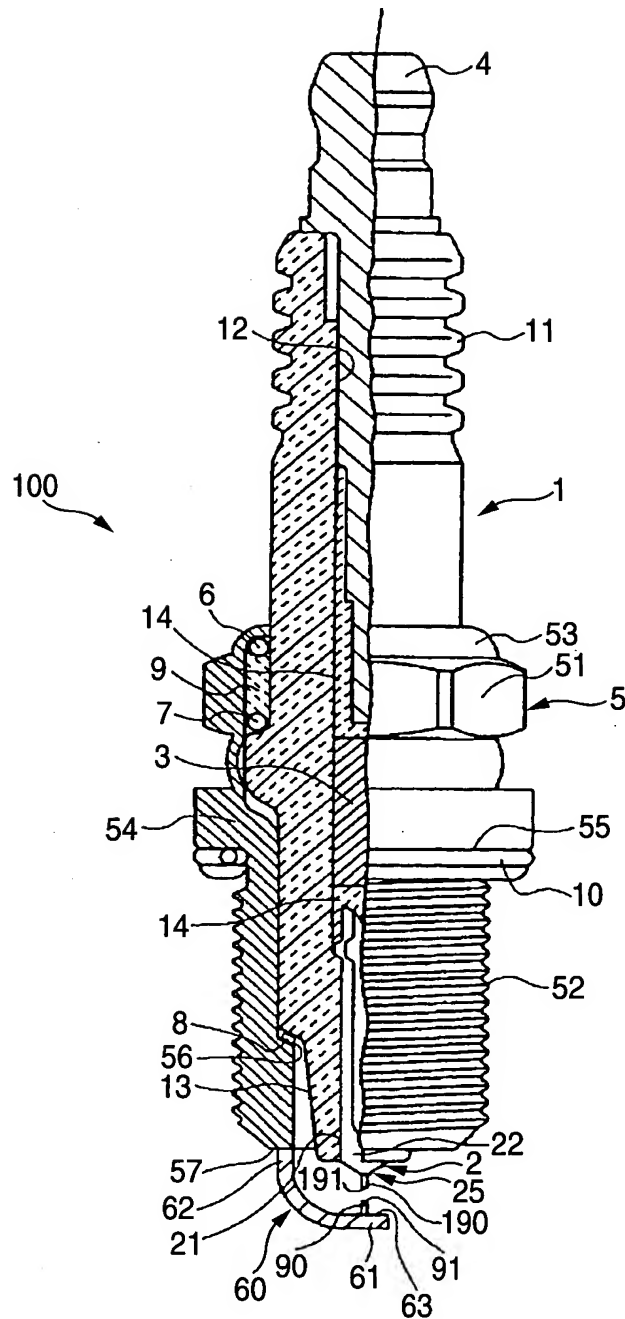
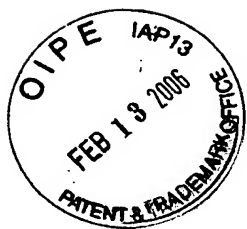


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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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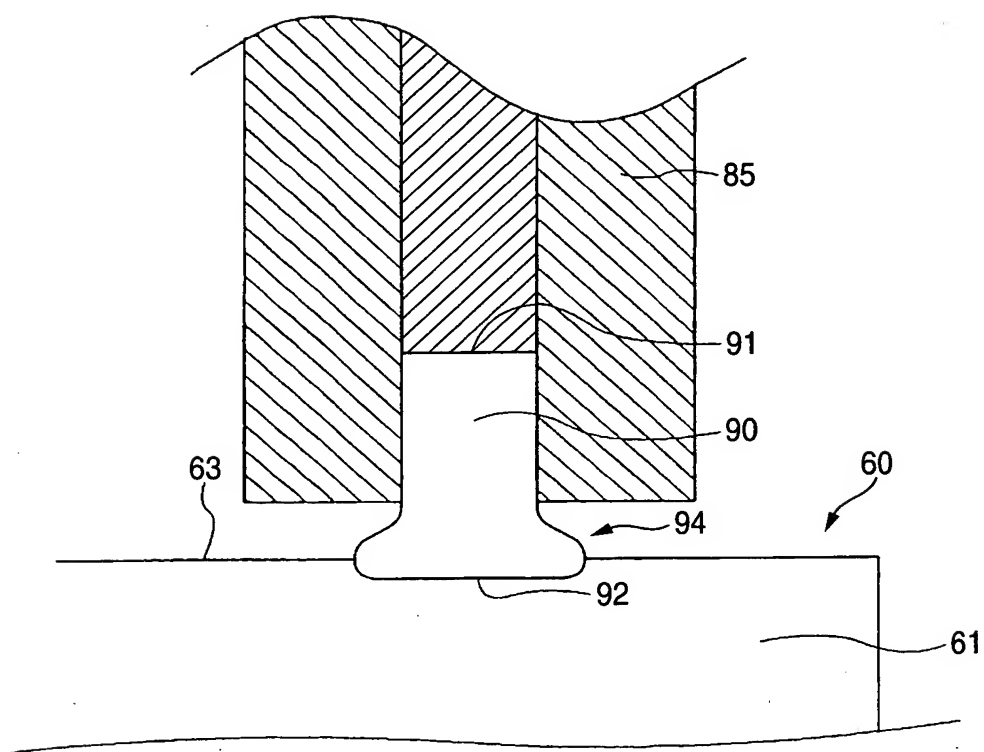
FIG. 1





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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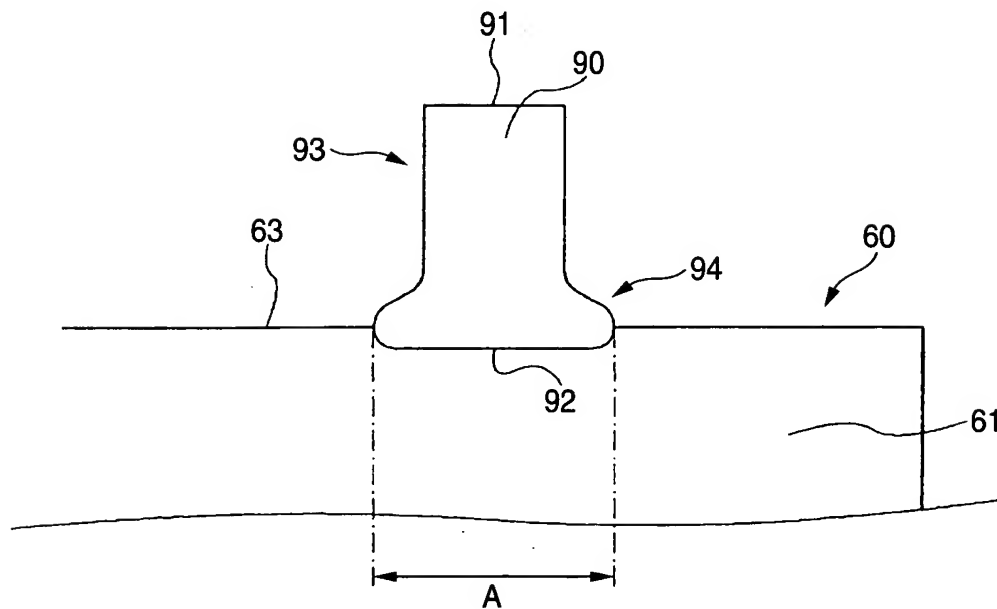
FIG. 2





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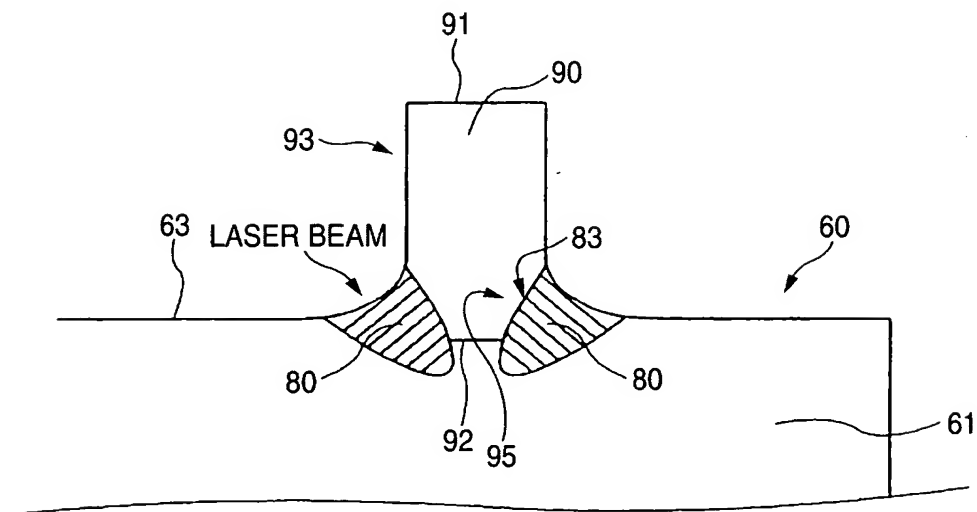
**FIG. 3**





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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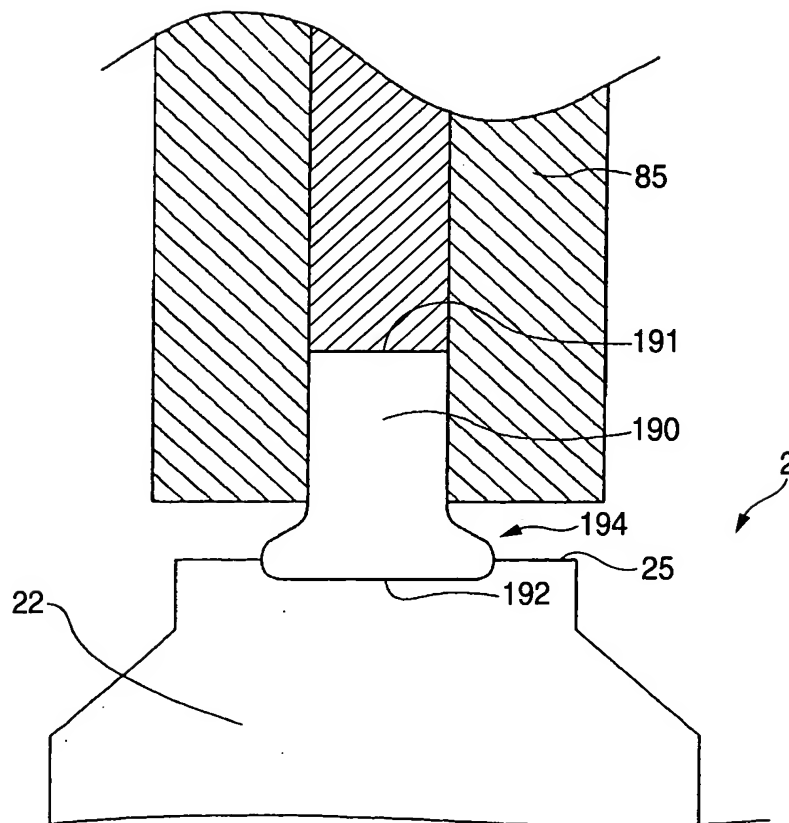
FIG. 4





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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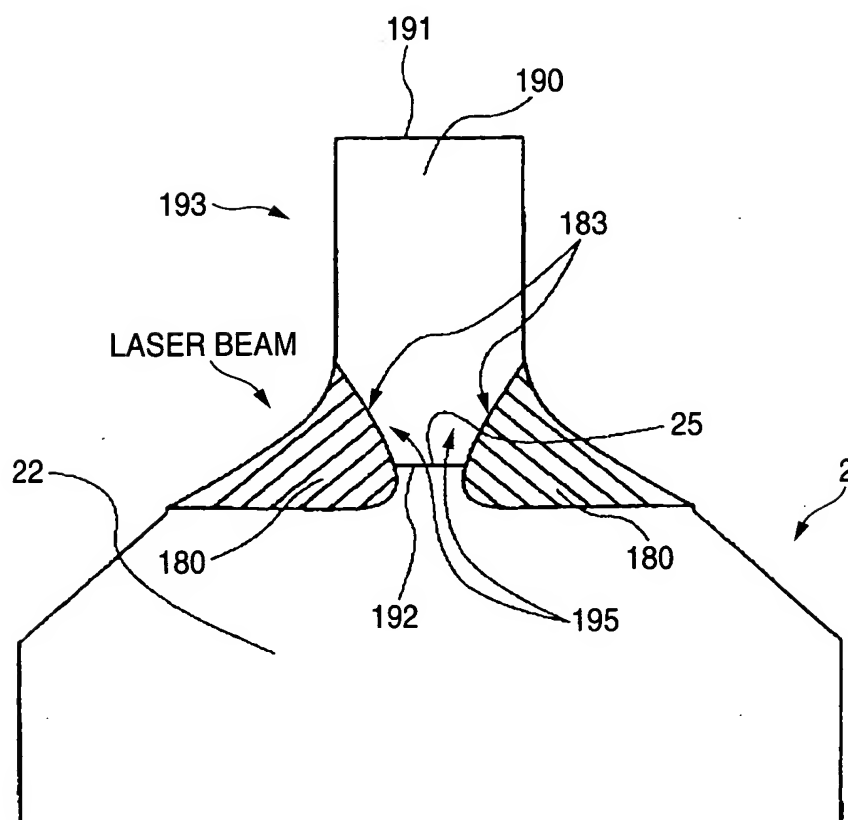
FIG. 5





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 Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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 Replacement Sheet

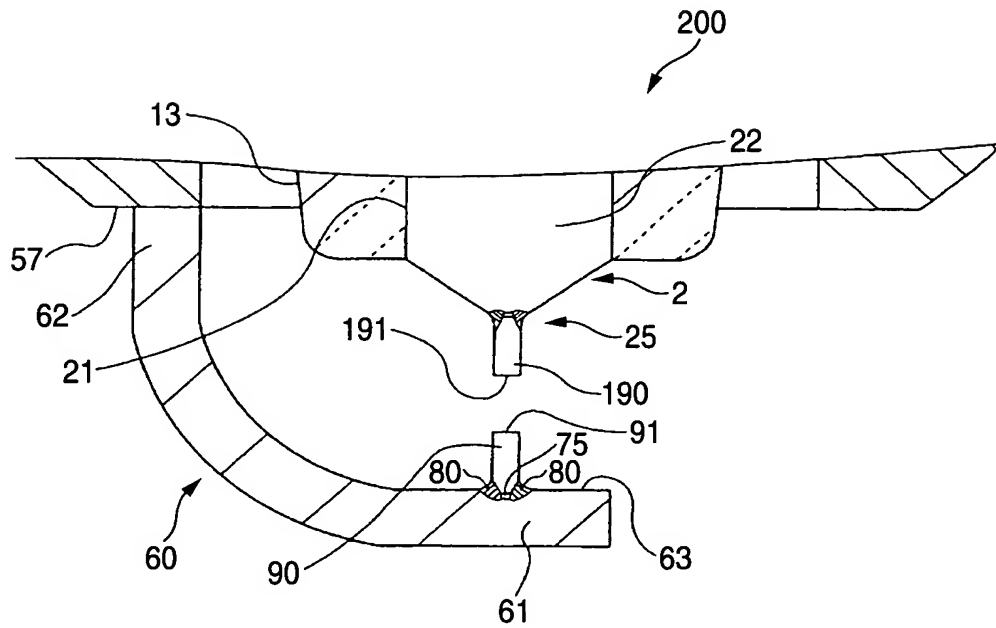
**FIG. 6**





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SPARK PLUG  
Replacement Sheet

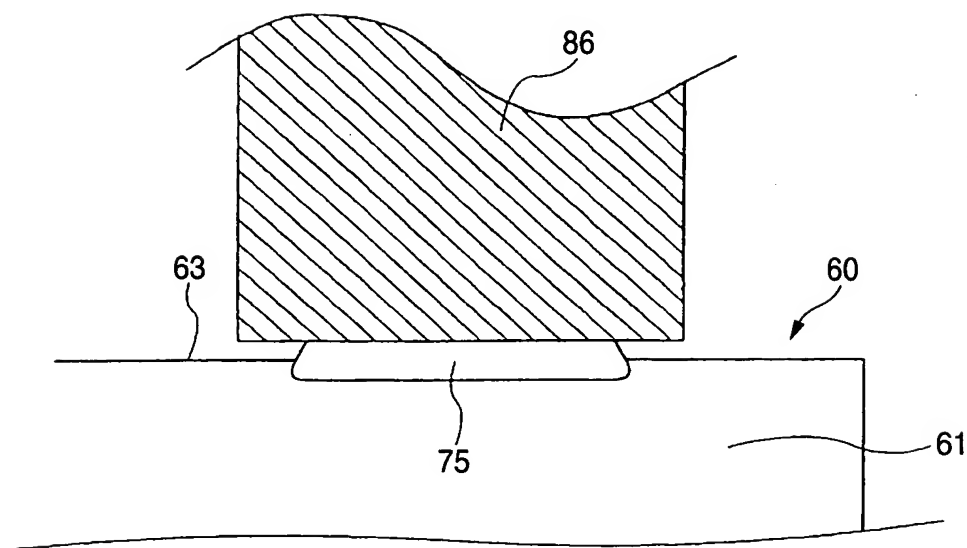
FIG. 7





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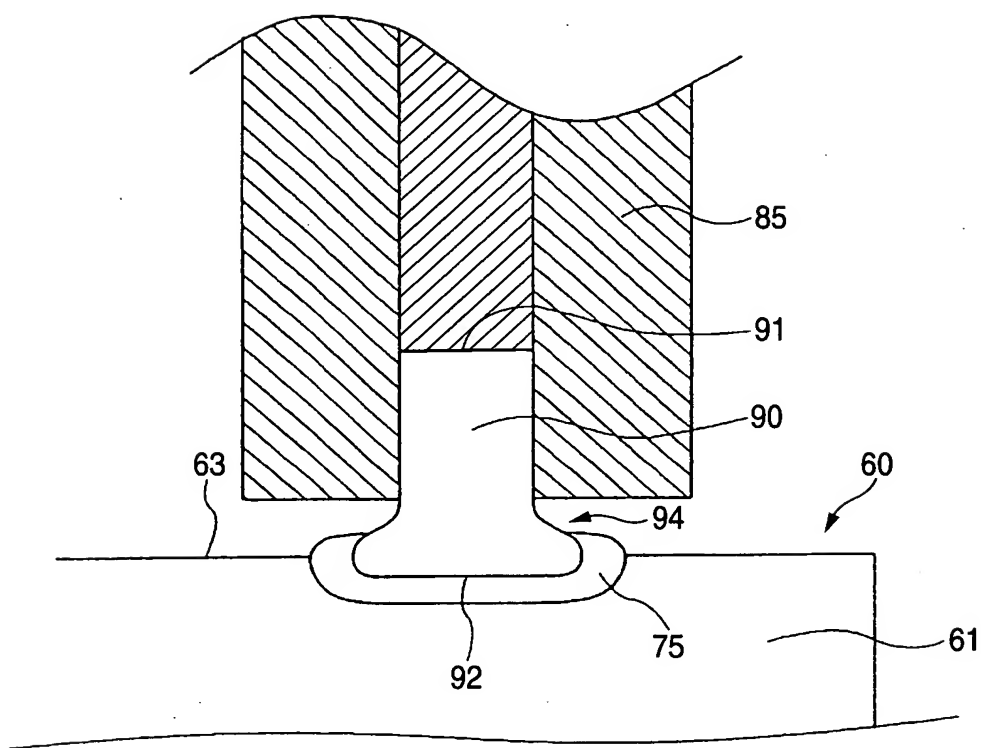
**FIG. 8**





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SPARK PLUG  
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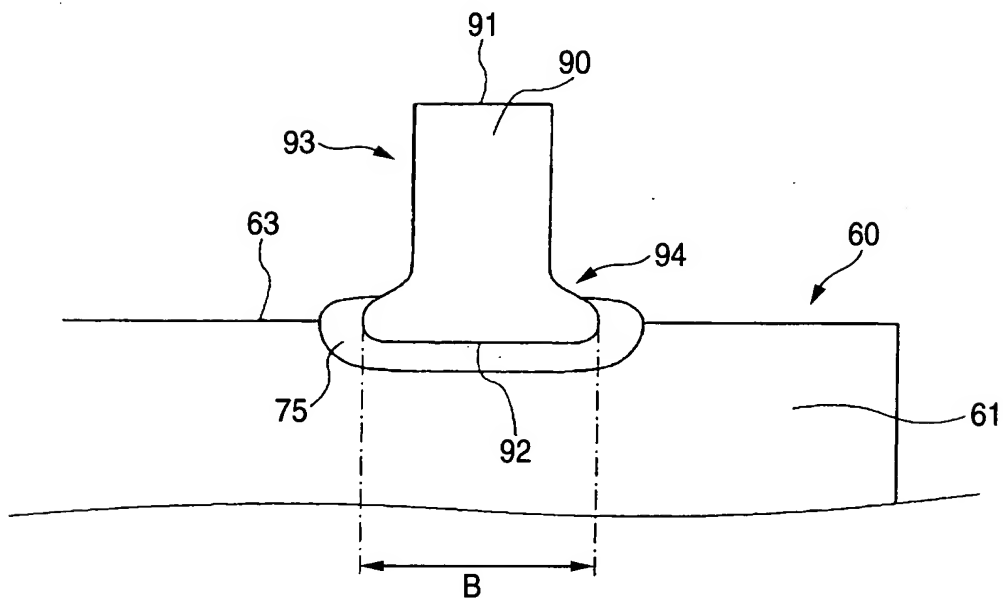
FIG. 9





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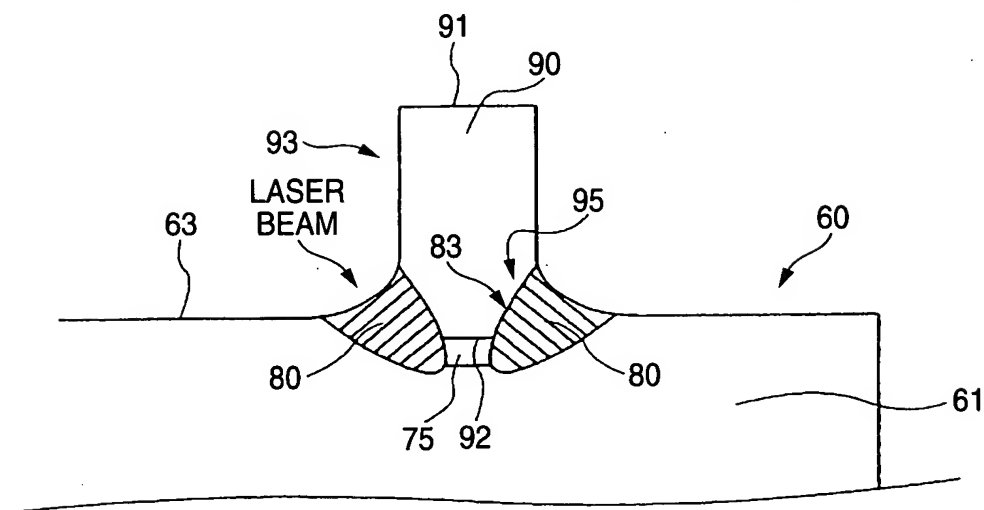
**FIG. 10**





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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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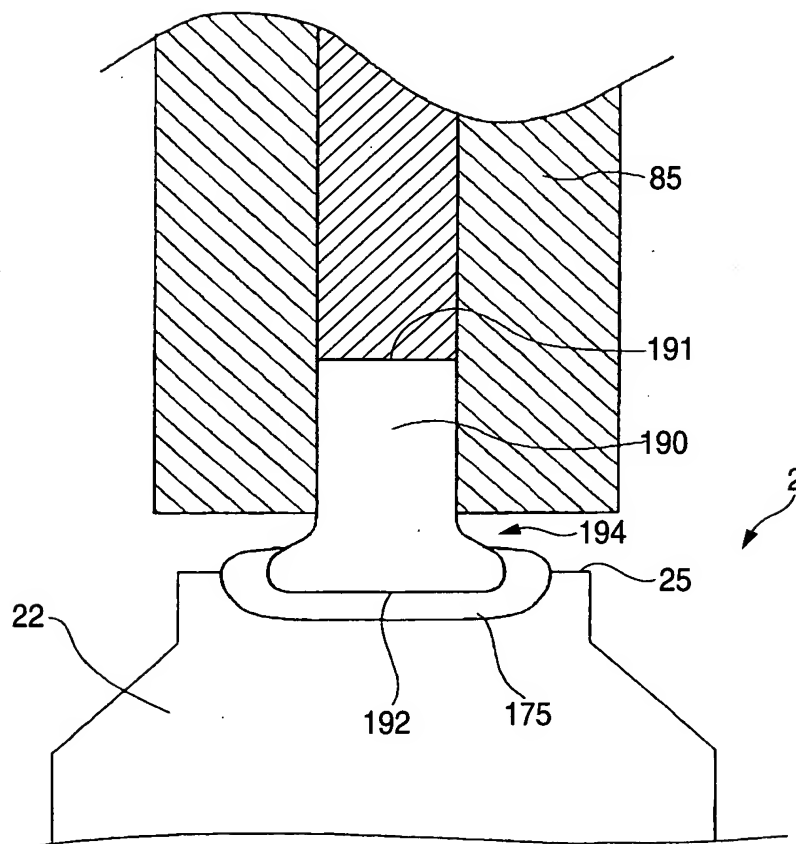
**FIG. 11**

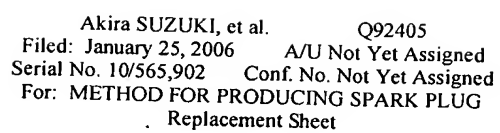




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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SPARK PLUG  
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**FIG. 12**



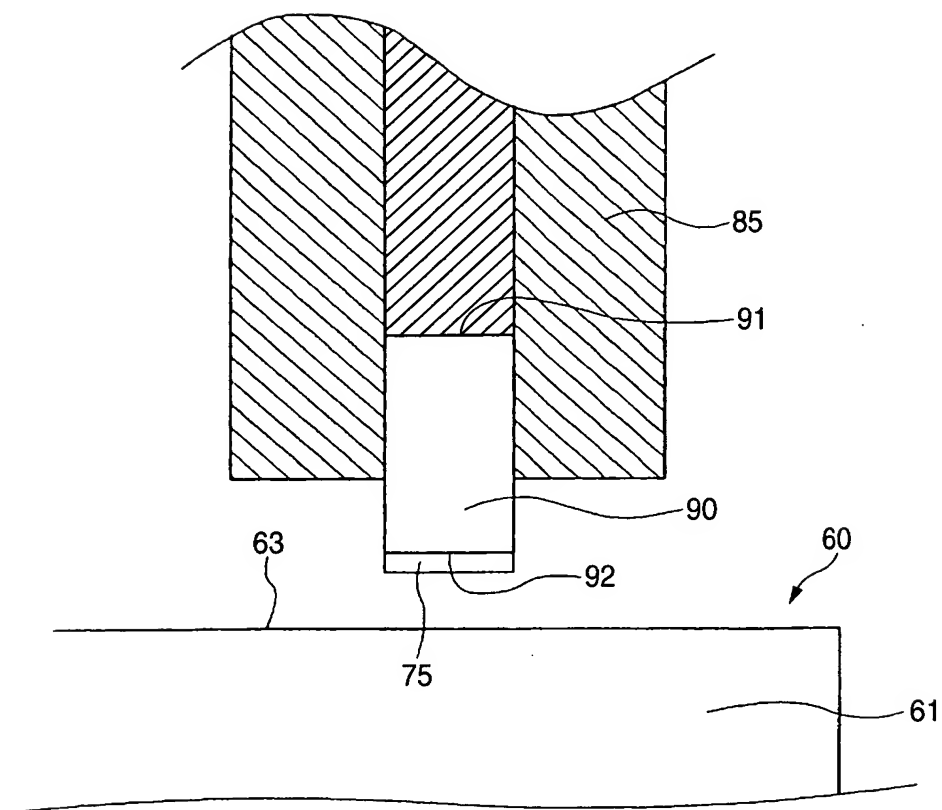


A cross-sectional diagram of a laser beam focusing system. A vertical rectangular block 190 is positioned above a horizontal surface 22. The top surface of the block is labeled 191. Two conical regions, shaded with diagonal lines, represent the focal volume of the laser beam, labeled 183. These regions are situated on either side of a central point 192 on the surface 22. The laser beam is indicated by arrows pointing towards the focal volume, with the label "LASER BEAM" and an arrow pointing to the beam path. The surface 22 is shown as a horizontal line with a slight dip at the center. The regions 183 are labeled 180 at their base. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the surface is labeled 175. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the top of the block is labeled 193. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the side of the block is labeled 180. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the bottom of the block is labeled 195. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the top of the block is labeled 192. The distance from the center of the focal volume to the side of the block is labeled 25.



Akira SUZUKI, et al. Q92405  
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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
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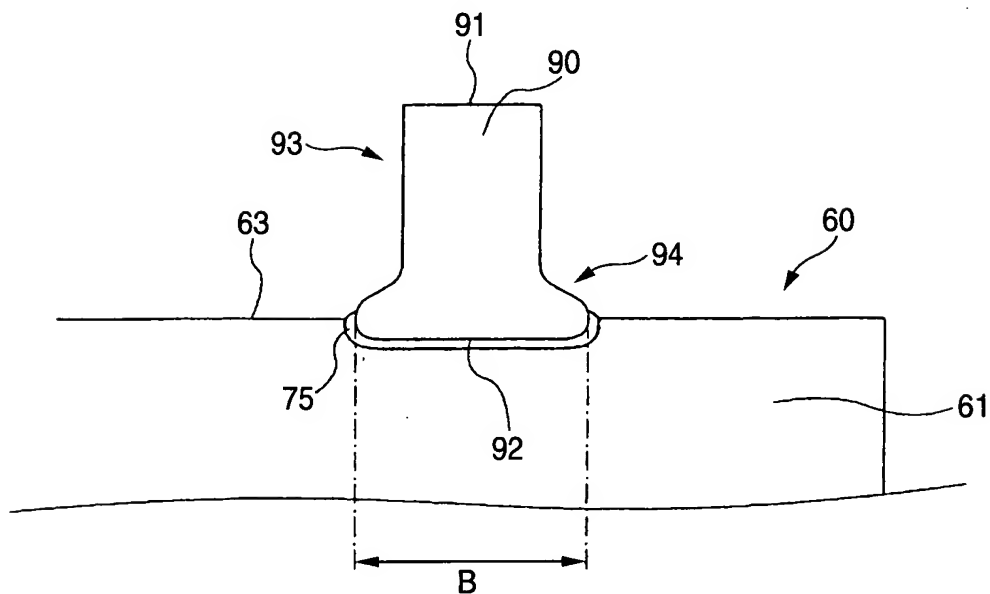
FIG. 14

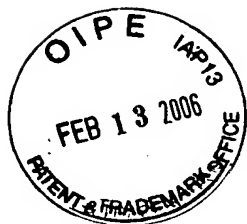




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Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SPARK PLUG  
Replacement Sheet

**FIG. 15**





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Filed: January 25, 2006 A/U Not Yet Assigned  
Serial No. 10/565,902 Conf. No. Not Yet Assigned  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SPARK PLUG  
Replacement Sheet

FIG. 16

